



Congressman Dana Rohrabacher California's 46th District Bulletin

September 2009

Congressman Rohrabacher's District Offices

District Office

101 Main Street, Suite 380
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714/960-6483 office
714/960-7806 voice
310/377-9493 Toll Free from Long Beach
Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm

Satellite District Offices:*

Conservation Corps Bldg.

340 Nieto Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90814
Office Hours
First, third & fifth Tuesday
10am to 5:30pm
And by appointment

Palos Verdes

550 Deep Valley Drive, #355
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
Office Hours:
Second & fourth Wednesday
10am to 5pm
And by appointment

**Satellite office space courtesy of Hon. Michelle Steel, SBOE and Hon. Gary DeLong.*

USCIS Update

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reminds federal contractors and subcontractors that effective September 8, 2009, they are required to use the E-Verify system to confirm employees' eligibility to work in the United States.

Federal contracts will only be offered to employers who use the E-Verify system to authorize their legal status. The E-Verify federal contractor rule extends use of the system to include those federal contractors and subcontractors who receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Applicable federal contracts awarded and solicitations issued after September 8 will include a clause committing government contractors to use E-Verify.

Companies are requested to register in E-Verify within 30 days of the contract award date. E-Verify must be used to confirm all new hires, whether employed on a federal contract or not, and existing employees directly working on contracts in order to verify they are legally authorized to work in the United States.

Information on the program and how to enroll is available on the E-Verify web site at www.dhs.gov/e-verify. Customer support is available by calling (888)-464-4218.

Southern California Edison Relieves Bills for Fire Victims

Southern California Edison (SCE) customers whose homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by recent wildfires will not have to pay for electricity used since the last bill received at those damaged residences.

SCE customers who qualify for bill relief may call toll-free at (800) 250-7339. Other customers who need bill payment arrangement may call (800) 950-2356.

September is National Preparedness Month—ARE YOU READY IN CASE OF A DISASTER?

Step 1: Get a kit

- Include items like non-perishable food, water, a battery powered radio, flashlights and batteries, bottled water and copies of important documents such as driver's license, Social Security card, proof of residence, birth and marriage certificates, etc

Step 2: Make a Plan

- Prepare your family, home and business by planning places to meet and how to contact one another in case of an emergency

Step 3: Be Informed

- Fasten shelves securely to walls, store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products securely in closed cabinets and repair defective electrical wiring and gas connections

Learn more about emergency plans and how to prepare by visiting Ready.gov, Fema.gov, Noaa.gov or the American Red Cross at Redcross.org

WANT TO READ THE BILLS?

At the beginning of the 104th Congress, Congressional Leaders directed the Library of Congress to make federal legislative information freely available to the public. If you would like to read current or pending legislation, please visit the Library of Congress online at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Use the bill number or keywords option to find the bill. If you need further assistance, call my office at 714-960-6483.

Center for Disease Control– H1N1 Flu Update

There is a new strain of the flu spreading worldwide called H1N1. This virus may cause more illness or severe symptoms than usual. Flu is a serious contagious disease. Each year in the United States, on average, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 people die from seasonal flu complications.

CDC says “Take 3” steps to fight the flu. These actions will protect against the new H1N1 strain too.

1. Take time to get a flu vaccine

- The CDC recommends a yearly seasonal flu vaccine as the most important step in protecting against seasonal influenza.
- A new vaccine against the H1N1 is being produced and will be available in the coming months for prevention against the new strain.

2. Take everyday preventive actions

- Wash hands regularly and avoid touching your eyes, hands and mouth.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to receive medical care.
- Visit the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>) to find out what to do if you get sick with the flu and how to care for someone at home who is sick

3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor recommends them

- If you get season of the H1N1 flu, antiviral drugs can treat the flu
- For treatment, antiviral drugs work best if started within the first 2 days of symptoms
- Flu-like symptoms include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches.

To find a location near you to receive a flu shot, please visit the American Lung Association’s Flu Clinic Locator at: <http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=aqKGLXOAIIH&b=1015035>

Department of Education: Grants Available to More Students

The Department of Education has announced more students may be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (SMART) in the 2009-2010 Award Year due to changes in regulation. These grants encourage students to take more challenging courses in high school--making success in college more likely, according to research--and to pursue college majors in high demand in the global economy, such as science, mathematics, technology, engineering and critical foreign languages.

The following are changes to the programs, reported by NASFAA and effective July 1, 2009:

- ‘Academic year’ was changed to ‘year’ when defining a student’s eligibility for an ACG or a National SMART Grant. Both grants are now awarded based on a student’s grade level, rather than their academic year.
- ACG’s program has been expanded to include one – or two-year undergraduate certificate programs at an institution. National SMART Grant now includes degree programs that require the completion of five full years of undergraduate coursework at a degree-granting institution.
- Students may now enroll half-time in an eligible program, expanding the previous requirement of full-time enrollment. As a reminder, the maximum ACG and National SMART Grants for part-time students must be proportionally reduced consistent with the requirements of the Federal Pell Grant Program.
- Majors have been expanded to include more programs for the National SMART Grant including additional Foreign Language majors and new Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies majors.
- Provisions 691.15(a)(1) and 668.33© that required grant recipients to be US citizens has been removed. Grants are now available to eligible non-citizens.

For expanded information about the grants, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ac-smart.html>